

ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

October 10, 2002

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IRA, DNR ANNOUNCE RECYCLING AWARD WINNERS

DES MOINES — The Iowa Recycling Association and its co-sponsors, including the DNR, have announced the winners of the 2002 Iowa Recycling Awards, given for excellence in recycling and reuse.

The winners will receive their awards Oct. 21 at the Embassy Suites on the River in Des Moines during an awards dinner and silent auction. The dinner and auction are co-hosted by the Iowa Recycling Association and the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations as a way to celebrate and promote cutting-edge solid waste and recycling practices.

Jeff Geerts, a DNR program planner, said the DNR is proud to be a sponsor of the awards program. Several award winners are past recipients of funding from the DNR's Solid Waste Alternatives Program.

"All of these award winners play a vital role leading Iowa's \$2.4 billion recycling industry," Geerts said. "These leaders demonstrate that protecting the environment, improving society and stimulating the economy do not have to be mutually exclusive."

Thirteen Iowa organizations dedicated to environmental stewardship collaborated to sponsor, review and select the award winners in each category. The organizations are Iowa Recycling Association, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa Waste Reduction Center, Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center, Iowa Environmental Council, Recycle Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Utility Association, Trees Forever, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Audubon Iowa, and Iowa Conservation Education Council.

The 2002 Iowa Recycling Award winners are:

Best Business Assistance Program: Iowa Waste Exchange, Des Moines
Best Public Education Campaign: Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival, Cedar Rapids
Best Business Recycling Program: Cardinal I.G., Greenfield
Best Local Government Recycling Program: Iowa City Landfill & Recycling Center, Iowa City
Best School Recycling Program: Coe College, Cedar Rapids
Closing the Loop Award: Landfill of North Iowa, Clear Lake
Outstanding Public Service Award: Kathleen Ockenfels, Iowa City
Recycled Product Manufacturing Award: Midwest Electronic Recycling, Walford
Recycling Project/Facility of the Year: Hope Haven International Ministries, Rock Valley
Recycler of the Year Award: Andy Ockenfels, Iowa City
Murray J. Fox Recycling Innovation Award: Hon Industries, Muscatine

The public is welcome to attend the awards banquet. Call (515) 265-1596 for ticket information. More information about the Iowa Recycling Awards is available online at www.iowarecycles.org.

For more information, contact Jeff Geerts at (515) 281-8176, or by e-mail at jeff.geerts@dnr.state.ia.us.

IOWA'S BUS EMISSION TESTING PROGRAM FEATURED ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

DES MOINES — Iowa's first-in-the-nation voluntary effort to test diesel emissions from school buses is featured as part of the American Environmental Review series, which airs nationally on public television stations to an estimated 50 million Americans.

American Environmental Review is hosted by Morley Safer and focuses on innovative products and technologies that aid the environment. The program will highlight diesel school bus emission testing in Iowa through the Bus Emissions Education Program (BEEP). BEEP is an effort to make Iowa's school buses the cleanest in the nation through education and by providing free emissions data.

Partners in BEEP include Mirencro, Inc of Radcliffe, the Departments of Natural Resources and Education, the School Administrators of Iowa and the Iowa Pupil Transportation Association. There is no cost to schools or the state budget since the effort is funded by donations.

"This is national exposure for an outstanding program that helps schools pinpoint which buses to focus on for mechanical work," said Brian Button, DNR air information specialist. "We expect the work in Iowa will prove to be a national model for other states to replicate." He said the data helps the districts save money since excess smoke is unburned fuel and targeted repairs avoid future, costly engine deterioration.

In the segment, Dwayne Fosseen, Mirengo CEO, discusses the application of Mirengo's DriverMax technology for use in emissions control and fuel management on Iowa's 4500 diesel school buses.

Also interviewed in the piece are Troyce Fisher, Executive Director of the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) and Brian Button, Air Information Specialist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

American Environmental Review is independently produced and distributed to the 350 public television stations nationwide. Individual stations air the series between regularly scheduled PBS shows and may run the program whenever and as often as they wish. An estimated 50 millions Americans will view the piece which will air in October. The series can also be seen internationally on WorldNet, part of Voice of America Television.

For more information, contact the DNR's Brian Button at 515-281-7832, Erin Heiden, with Mirengo, Inc. at 515-899-2164 or Troyce Fisher with the School Administrators of Iowa at 515-267-1115.

ADVISORIES REMAIN POSTED AT UNION GROVE STATE PARK AND BACKBONE STATE PARKS

DES MOINES — Swimming advisories due to elevated bacteria levels remain posted on the beaches at Union Grove State Park in Tama County and at Backbone State Park in Delaware County. The beach at George Wyth State Park in Black Hawk County will be closed for the remainder of the year as the DNR continues to investigate elevated bacteria levels there.

Signs warning the public that swimming is not recommended are now posted at both Union Grove and Backbone. People can still use the beach there including for swimming, but the risk of bacterial infection or disease is considered to be higher because bacteria levels have averaged more than U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for fecal coliform bacteria over a 30-day period of time.

For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395 or Mary Skopec, 319-335-1575.

EXTRA PUBLIC MEETING FOR HYDROGEN SULFIDE, AMMONIA, AIR SAMPLING

DES MOINES — An extra public comment meeting for draft state rules to establish hydrogen sulfide and ammonia air standards and associated monitoring techniques is scheduled for Nov. 6 at the Davenport Public Library, 321 Main St. from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The draft rules are not limited to confined animal feeding operations and could affect

other facilities emitting these compounds. They also establish an ambient air sampling manual containing monitor siting requirements, data handling procedures, approved monitoring methods and equipment, and quality assurance requirements for determining compliance with proposed hydrogen sulfide and ammonia standards.

Either oral or written comments are accepted during the public hearings. Written comments can be sent to Bryan Bunton, DNR Air Quality Bureau, 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 1, Urbandale, IA 50322 or bryan.bunton@dnr.state.ia.us or faxed to 515-242-5094. All comments must be received no later than November 6, 2002.